

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO.

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 4 January 1952

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 January 1952

REFERENCES 25X1C

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 4:30 and 7 p.m. on 3 January 1951, jet aircraft made individual 20-minute flights at Koethen airfield. * Five jet fighters were observed at the take-off point. The runway was lighted and the revolving searchlight was in operation.
2. At 11 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. on 3 January, no conventional aircraft were observed at the field. The weather was fair. Six swept-back jet fighters and two radio trucks with rod-shaped whip antennae were parked at the take-off point. Ten trucks were close to the take-off point. Seven swept-back jet fighters were parked in front of hangar 2. Two slide doors were open, but the center door was closed. Because of approaching bad weather six swept-back jet fighters were towed by large command cars into hangar 2 at 1:50 p.m. As previously observed in Dessau, the noses of the jet fighters were fastened to the hooks of the command cars. Six railroad tank cars were observed on the spur track of the field near the previously reported fuel dump where pits had been prepared for the installation of fuel tanks already there. Most of the fuel tanks available at the dump had been dug in. The earth cover of these tanks was slightly above the surface of the ground. Two other railroad tank cars, two fuel tanks the size of railroad tank cars, and two tank trucks were on the spur track 300 to 400 meters northwest of the fuel depot. It appeared to source that another fuel dump surrounded by a board fence was located there. A low wooden building and at least three guard posts were also observed there. **
3. At 12:14 p.m. on 4 January, a swept-back jet fighter landed at the field. No conventional aircraft were seen. According to a laborer employed at the field the airfield personnel had been changed several times in the course of the last three weeks. ***

* Comment. A recently activated fighter regiment, which according to available information is probably not yet fully equipped with aircraft, is stationed in Koethen. It appears that flight training there was still limited to local flights by individual aircraft. Besides this regiment an unidentified air unit, which arrived from Strausberg on 17 November 1951,

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is also located at the field. It is unknown with what type of aircraft this unit is equipped. The presence in Koethen of this unit was last confirmed by fuel shipments dispatched to its ground unit [] on 26 December 1951.

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25X1A ** [] Comment. The information on the possible existence of a second fuel depot is received for the first time. It appears that this fuel depot, just as the other one previously reported, is located in the north eastern corner of the field. There is a possibility that the two air units stationed in Koethen are supplied by separate fuel depots.

25X1A *** [] Comment. This statement is correct. In November, the first new regiment arrived in Koethen. Soon afterwards a second regiment followed. In December, one of these regiments moved to Herseburg. Moreover, a unit from Strausberg arrived in Koethen in mid-November.

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